

Resources

Rhode Island Department of Education

The Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports operates a **Call Center** to provide families, citizens, and school personnel with information and guidance regarding special education services and due process:
(401) 222-8999

RIDE Teletypewriter Relay (TTY): 1-800-745-5555
Main number connecting all offices: (401) 222-4600

Local Special Education Advisory Committees function and operate similar to the State Advisory Committee with similar membership and purpose.

Contact the school district's Director of Special Education for information regarding the Local Special Education Advisory Committee.

Family Organizations

Rhode Island Parent Information Network
(401) 270-0101; 1-800-464-3399

Parent Support Network of Rhode Island
(401) 467-6855; 1-800-483-8844

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
(401) 456-8072



Rhode Island Department of Education
Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports
#500
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903-3400

RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout their schools years and into the world of adulthood.

Meetings

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC) meets monthly to discuss and review special education issues and reforms identified in the state as well as nationally. Open RISEAC meetings are held once a month on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm, May through October. RISEAC members also convene for a Strategic Planning Work session in September and an Annual Meeting in June.

Membership

The Committee is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities birth to 26 comprise the majority of the committee membership. The membership also includes individuals with disabilities, educators, state and local administrators who provide services and supports to children including foster care, homelessness, private schools, charter schools, transition/vocational service providers and juvenile and adult corrections.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee advises the Commissioner and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education on:

- The unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- Any rules and regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of Education under section 618 of the Act and the SPP/APR.
- Developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of IDEA;
- Developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities and
- Advise on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons.

Membership Application

All prospective members to the RISEAC apply annually in writing to the Chair(s) of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee interviews applicants and makes recommendations to the full RISEAC membership. Those recommendations are then forwarded to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for appointment. If you are interested in learning more about Committee membership, please contact Melissa MacDonald in the Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports at the Rhode Island Department of Education at (401) 222-8349 or by email: Melissa.MacDonald@ride.ri.gov or visit our website at www.riseac.org.



Individuals who need a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids for effective communication are invited to make these needs and preferences known to Melissa MacDonald at (401) 222-8349 at least 72 hours prior to each meeting. Individuals using TTY may call RI Relay Service at 1-800-745-5555.